

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 80(HSS)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/21/21

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS GRAY-JACKSON, Begich

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act relating to mental health education."**

2   **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3       \* **Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
4 to read:

5           LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the Board of Education  
6 and Early Development develop guidelines for instruction in mental health in consultation  
7 with the Department of Health and Social Services, regional tribal health organizations, and  
8 representatives of national and state mental health organizations.

9       \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.30.360(a) is amended to read:

10           (a) Each district in the state public school system shall be encouraged to  
11 initiate and conduct a program in health education for kindergarten through grade 12.  
12 The program should include instruction in [PHYSICAL] health and personal safety  
13 including alcohol and drug abuse education, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR),  
14 early cancer prevention and detection, dental health, family health including infant  
15 care, environmental health, mental health, the identification and prevention of child

1 abuse, child abduction, neglect, sexual abuse, and domestic violence, and appropriate  
2 use of health services.

3 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.30.360(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) The state board shall establish guidelines for a health and personal safety  
5 education program. **Guidelines for developmentally appropriate instruction in**  
6 **mental health shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Health**  
7 **and Social Services, regional tribal health organizations, and representatives of**  
8 **national and state mental health organizations.** Personal safety guidelines shall be  
9 developed in consultation with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.  
10 Upon request, the Department of Education and Early Development, the Department  
11 of Health and Social Services, and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual  
12 Assault shall provide technical assistance to school districts in the development of  
13 personal safety curricula. A school health education specialist position shall be  
14 established and funded in the department to coordinate the program statewide.  
15 Adequate funds to enable curriculum and resource development, adequate consultation  
16 to school districts, and a program of teacher training in health and personal safety  
17 education shall be provided.

18 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.30.360 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (e) A district may not instruct a student in mental health as part of a program  
20 in health education under (a) of this section without informed consent from the  
21 student's parent or guardian. The district shall inform the child's parent or guardian, in  
22 the native language of the parent or guardian, of the time, date, and content of the  
23 mental health instruction, that consent is voluntary, and that consent may be revoked  
24 at any time. Before instructing a student in mental health, the district shall obtain  
25 written consent from the parent or guardian indicating that the parent or guardian  
26 understands and agrees to the student's participation in the mental health instruction.

27 \* **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
28 read:

29 TRANSITION. The state Board of Education and Early Development shall develop  
30 the mental health guidelines required by AS 14.30.360(b), as amended by sec. 3 of this Act,  
31 within two years after the effective date of this Act.